

In order to eliminate the Maoist movement in Bastar and carry out its long term plan to forcibly displace the indigenous Adivasi population from that region, so that it can be handed over to Indian and foreign corporates, the Indian state has been carrying out a vicious campaign of suppression known as Operation Kagar. As part of this it has even carried out repeated aerial bombing of Adivasi villages. Almost half of those killed there by the Indian state in recent months are Adivasis, including children. Several leading human rights activists had expressed grave concern over the situation and called upon the Government of India, as well as the leadership of the Maoist party, to ceasefire and initiate talks. The leadership of that party responded to this call and unilaterally declared a ceasefire, calling on the government to follow suit and create conducive conditions for talks. Instead of responding positively to this the Indian state continued its murderous campaign of suppression. It encircled and shot down the secretary of the CPI (Maoist), comrade Basavaraj and those accompanying him. Violating all norms, it refused to handover the bodies of these comrades to their relatives for a proper cremation. Instead it surreptitiously carted away the bodies and burnt them. This was the dastardly manner by which the Indian state revealed its inhuman character. Complementing it, a bunch of traitors headed by the Sonu- Rupesh clique are now slandering comrade Basavaraj in a most heinous manner. They claim that he was in support of laying down arms and surrendering. They thus mock the heroic resistance put up by comrade Basavaraj and his companions, despite being heavily outnumbered and facing a far superior force. Those comrades chose to fight to the end. They were not for surrender. Instead they went down holding up the blazing banner of revolution in the true communist tradition, thus setting glorious examples of self-sacrifice.

Recently, Soni Sori, the well known Adivasi human rights activist, has put some very relevant questions to those who surrendered. Will this mean that the Adivasis will now have the right to their Jal, Jungle and Zameen? Does this mean that the government will withdraw armed camps from that region? Does this mean that foreign and Indian corporates will not be allowed to ravage that land for their profits? Anyone even slightly familiar with the policies and interests of the rulers of this country knows the answers to these questions. Nothing of that sort is going to happen. Rather, rapacious plunder of that region is going to intensify. That calls for struggle, not surrender, on the part of the oppressed and those who side with them. That calls for upholding the glorious tradition of great martyrs like comrade Basavaraj.